



HILL COUNTRY STATE NATURAL AREA

BACKGROUND

Hill Country State Natural Area consists of 5,370 acres located approximately 11 miles southwest of Bandera in Bandera and Medina Counties. White -tailed deer populations exceed the carrying capacity of the area. Deer hunts were initiated in an effort to protect the Park's habitat.

Objectives of the Department are to restore and maintain healthy populations of native fauna and flora in natural habitats and to provide for compatible public use. Where game populations exceed the carrying capacity of the habitat, the preferred method of reduction is public hunting.

HUNTING INFORMATION

All park rules and regulations must be adhered to unless superseded by hunting regulations.

Permitted hunters should report to the Park headquarters by 10:30 a.m. On the first day of their assigned hunt period. There will be no Standby hunting opportunities for these hunts. **Hunters must contact the area as soon as possible if they are unable to attend their accepted hunt or not able to arrive on the first day for orientation.** Following a brief orientation, hunters will be directed to pre-selected blinds by Parks and Wildlife Department personnel. Hunters must hunt only in assigned blinds but may come and go from their blinds at their leisure. Hunters can bring pop-up blinds to hunt from, but they must be set-up adjacent to the staff constructed brush blinds.

Hunting will end at 12 noon on the final day of the assigned hunt.

Participants in firearm hunts for deer must visibly wear a minimum of 400 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange material, with at least 144 square inches appearing on both chest and back and orange headwear.

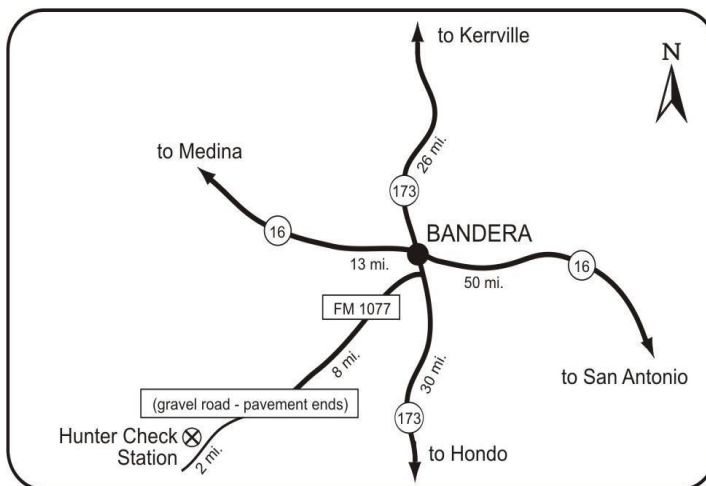
Only one legally permissible weapon per hunter will be allowed into the hunt area. It is very important to have the correct weapon for these hunts. GDE and GDA are Centerfire only. Use of dogs is prohibited.

Non-permitted visitors and family members will not be allowed on the Park during hunts, except when directly assisting a permitted disabled hunter or during youth only hunts. Youth under 17 are required to be under the immediate supervision of an authorized supervising adult, 18 or older, who possesses a valid Texas hunting license. Youth under 12 years old must remain within normal voice distance of the supervising adult. For youth 12 to 16 years of age who have received hunter education certification, the requirement for immediate supervision is relaxed to the extent that the supervising adult is required only to be present on the public hunting unit. The supervising adult is responsible for the actions and liability of the youth.

Hunters will be responsible for the reasonable care of their game after harvest. No facilities for deer storage will be available on the Park, but commercial facilities are available in Bandera and Tarpley. Ice for packing coolers is not available at the Park.

Hunters are reminded that they must have a valid Texas Hunting License, any required stamp as required by statute. It is no longer necessary to use a hunting license tag or bonus tag on a deer taken during a Special Permit drawn hunt however a TPWD Legal Deer Tag, issued at the area, must be attached to a harvested deer prior to leaving the hunt area. Hunters 17 years of age and older must have in their possession a valid I.D. Hunter Safety Education is required of Texas hunters born on or after September 2, 1971 (See the Texas Parks & Wildlife Outdoor Annual for more information). Each hunter should also bring a flashlight, food, drinking water, and foul weather gear.

Disturbance or removal of plants, rocks, artifacts, or other objects is prohibited.



The public display or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited. Hunters may not consume or be under the influence of alcohol while hunting.

Hunters' vehicles will not be allowed into the hunt area, except that disabled individuals may hunt from a stationary motor vehicle. Operation of an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) or off road vehicle (ORV) is prohibited, except by a disabled hunter and person directly assisting a disabled permitted hunter.

Camping (primitive in tent and electric/water sites) and dormitory style accommodations will be available on the Park for permitted hunters. There are a limited number of hookups for electricity/water sites at the camping area. There are no sewer hookups, nor is there a trailer dump station available on the Park. The electric sites do not have restrooms or fire rings available at the electrical hook-ups. Primitive tent camping at the Bar-O area will be available and has access to toilets and potable water provided in the camping area. Campfires are allowed on the Park in fire rings only (shared fire rings), located in the primitive tent camp area unless we are under a burn ban. A propane cooking stove might be approved. A fee will be assessed for overnight camping; no reservation required. Call 830/796-4413 to get information for the Group Lodge offering dormitory style accommodations. Private motels and campgrounds are available in Bandera and other surrounding towns.

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